

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A quick connector coupling for forming a joint in a fluid line system comprising:
 - a female connector body having slots formed therethrough, and a through bore extending from an end of said connector body;
 - a male member extending through said end of said connector body and into said bore, said male member having a tubular surface and an annular upset, said upset having a diameter greater than the diameter of said tubular surface;
 - a primary retainer coupled to said connector body, said primary retainer including a cross member and two spaced legs extending from said cross member and through said slots, said legs in abutting relationship with said male member upset, said legs in a locked position in which said legs are spaced apart a distance less than the diameter of said upset;
 - a secondary latch/verifier separately coupled to said connector body, said secondary latch/verifier including two fingers, each finger having a portion positioned laterally outward of one of said legs.
2. (original) The coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein said legs are approximately perpendicular to the axis of said bore when viewed from the side.
3. (original) The coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein said fingers are approximately perpendicular to the axis of said bore when viewed from the side.

4. (original) The coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein said fingers are able to be positioned laterally outward of one of said legs only if the legs are in the locked position.

5[[6]]. (currently amended) The coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein said secondary latch/verifier further includes a beam in axial abutting relationship with said male member upset.

6[[7]]. (currently amended) The coupling as claimed in claim [[6]] 5 wherein the radially inner surface of said beam abuts the radially outer surface of said upset if the male member has not been sufficiently inserted into the connector body.

7[[8]]. (currently amended) The coupling as claimed in claim [[6]] 5 wherein said beam is movable to the axial abutting relationship with said male member upset only if the male member has been sufficiently inserted into the connector body.

8[[9]]. (currently amended) The coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein said secondary latch/verifier further includes a rim, said rim axially positions said secondary latch/verifier relative to said connector body.

9[[10]]. (currently amended) The coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein said legs are movable from said locked position to a released position in which said legs are spaced apart a distance greater than said upset diameter if the fingers of said secondary latch/verifier are not positioned laterally outward of said legs.

10[[11]]. (currently amended) A coupling as claimed in claim [[10]] 9 wherein said primary retainer further includes a release member ~~being~~ cooperable with said connector body to move said primary retainer legs ~~retainer beams~~ from said locked position to said release position.

11[[12]]. (currently amended) The coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein said fingers prevent said legs from moving from said locked position to a released position in which said legs are spaced apart a distance greater than said upset.

12[[13]]. (currently amended) A quick connector coupling for forming a joint in a fluid line system comprising:

a female connector body having slots formed therethrough, and a through bore extending from an end of said connector body;

a male member extending through said end of said connector body and into said bore, said male member having a tubular surface and an annular upset, said upset having a diameter greater than the diameter of said tubular surface;

a primary retainer coupled to said connector body, said primary retainer including a cross member and two spaced legs extending from said cross member and through said slots, said legs in abutting relationship with said male member upset, said legs in a locked position in which said legs are spaced apart a distance less than the diameter of said upset, said legs are approximately perpendicular to the axis of the bore when viewed from the side;

a secondary latch/verifier coupled to said connector body, said secondary latch/verifier including a retainer beam in axial abutting relationship with said male member upset.

13[[14]]. (currently amended) The coupling as claimed in claim [[13]] 12 wherein the radially inner surface of said retainer beam abuts the radially outer surface of said upset if the male member has not been sufficiently inserted into the connector body.

14[[15]]. (currently amended) The coupling as claimed in claim [[13]] 12 wherein said retainer beam is movable to said [[the]] axial abutting relationship with said male member upset only if the male member has been sufficiently inserted into the connector body.

15[[16]]. (currently amended) The coupling as claimed in claim [[13]] 12 wherein said secondary latch/verifier further includes a rim, said rim axially positions said secondary latch/verifier relative to said connector body.

RESPONSE

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

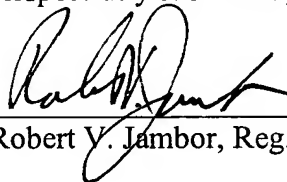
Original claims 6-16 have been renumbered as claims 5-15. This change corrects the previous error in numbering which skipped the number 5.

The allowed claims are now numbered 12, 13, and 15. The claims previously objected to are now numbered 4-7 and 11.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a secondary latch separately coupled to the connector body." No such arrangement is present in the SZABO reference. There the retainer comprises one primary latch. It includes legs to latch the tube to the retainer, and legs to latch the retainer to the connector body. No secondary latch member is present.

All claims should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert V. Jambor, Reg. No. 23,080

March 29, 2005

JENNER & BLOCK LLP
One IBM Plaza
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: (312) 923-2814
Fax: (312) 923-2914